

REMARKS**Claim Amendments**

Claims 1, 18 and 34 have been amended to more clearly claim the disclosed subject matter. Specifically, these claims have been amended to recite that the composite shell is constructed of a number of layers, at least one of which is conductive along a single direction. Support can be found for these amendments at least at paragraphs 21-29 of Applicant's specification. Claims 26 and 39 have been cancelled.

102 Rejections

Sinclair does not teach or suggest the claims as amended. Specifically, although Sinclair purports a sleeve having conductive properties, Sinclair does not teach or suggest a layered sleeve where at least one layer is conductive along a single direction. Instead, Sinclair discloses that carbon powder is used to impregnate the epoxy material to create the conductive pathway. Such an impregnation process is well known in the art to purposefully generate a random mixture of the carbon powder within the epoxy thereby create a conductivity property that is uniform in all directions within the shell. Based on this teaching, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration.

CONCLUSION

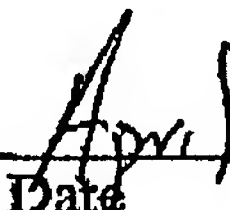
Applicants believe this paper is fully responsive to each and every ground of rejection and objection cited by the Examiner in the Office Action and respectfully request reconsideration of the application.

Please charge any applicable fees, or apply any excess, to deposit account number 19-0610.

Respectfully submitted,


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